

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice. Please add new claims 12-31 as shown below in the List of Claims.

List of Claims

- 1-11. Cancelled.
12. (New) A method for preparing an enantiomer-enriched α -hydroxycarboxylic acid or an enantiomer-enriched α -hydroxycarboxylic amide, comprising reacting a cyanide donor with an aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and either a nitrilase or a nitrile hydratase.
13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein, said cyanide donor is hydrogen cyanide.
14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and a nitrilase.
15. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone in the presence of an oxynitrilase and nitrile hydratase.
16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein, in addition to said oxynitrilase and nitrile hydratase, an amidase is present.
17. (New) The process of claim 12, wherein said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of Sorghum bicolor, Hevea brasiliensis, Mannihot esculenta and almond kernels.
18. (New) The process claim 14, wherein said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of Rhodococcus or Alcaligenes faecalis.
19. (New) The process of claim 15, wherein said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: Rhodococcus spec., Rhodococcus rhodochrous and Rhodococcus erythropolis.

20. (New) The process of claim 12, wherein said cyanide donor is reacted with said aldehyde or ketone at a temperature of 20-40 °C.
21. (New) The process of claim 12, wherein:
 - a) said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of Sorghum bicolor, Hevea brasiliensis, Mannihot esculenta and almond kernels;
 - b) said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of Rhodococcus or Alcaligenes faecalis; and
 - c) said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: Rhodococcus spec., Rhodococcus rhodochrous and Rhodococcus erythropolis.
22. (New) An enzymatic reaction composition comprising an oxynitrilase, a nitrilase or a nitrile hydratase, water, a cyanide donor and an aldehyde or a ketone.
23. (New) The enzymatic reaction composition of claim 22, wherein said composition comprises an oxynitrilase, a nitrilase, water, a cyanide donor and an aldehyde or a ketone.
24. (New) The enzymatic reaction composition of claim 22, wherein wherein said composition comprises an oxynitrilase, a nitrile hydratase, water, a cyanide donor and an aldehyde or a ketone.
25. (New) The enzymatic reaction composition of claim 24, further comprising an amidase.
26. (New) The enzymatic reaction composition of claim 22, wherein:
 - a) said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of Sorghum bicolor, Hevea brasiliensis, Mannihot esculenta and almond kernels;
 - b) said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of Rhodococcus or Alcaligenes faecalis; and

- c) said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: *Rhodococcus* spec., *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.
27. (New) A cell capable of serving as a whole-cell catalyst, wherein said cell comprises a cloned gene encoding an oxynitrilase and a cloned gene encoding either a nitrilase or a nitrile hydratase.
28. (New) The cell of claim 27, wherein said cell comprises a cloned gene encoding an oxynitrilase and a cloned gene encoding a nitrilase.
29. (New) The cell of claim 27, wherein said cell comprises a cloned gene encoding an oxynitrilase and a cloned gene encoding nitrile hydratase.
30. (New) The cell of claim 29, further comprising a cloned gene encoding an amidase.
31. (New) The cell of claim 27, wherein:
- a) said oxynitrilase is selected from the group consisting of *Sorghum bicolor*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Mannihot esculenta* and almond kernels;
 - b) said nitrilase is from an organism selected from either a strain of *Rhodococcus* or *Alcaligenes faecalis*; and
 - c) said nitrile hydratase is from an organism selected from the group consisting of: *Rhodococcus* spec., *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* and *Rhodococcus erythropolis*.